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CIA Gets Support in Congress

Members of Congress are rising to the defense of the Central Intelligence Agency and are pointing out that the controversy over the financing of the National Student Association in its foreign operations is really a "tempest in a teapot."

Senator Gale W. McGee in a speech in the Senate referred to "shortsighted criticism" of the CIA. He said that, instead of "popping off first and thinking later," senators should ask themselves certain questions. One of these is how the United States would be able to counter the student programs of the Soviet Union, which are subsidized by the Moscow government, unless the whole subject is dealt with as a necessary project in the gathering of intelligence. Senator John C. Stennis said:

"If you're in the business of gathering intelligence, you have got to go where the information is, in order to find out what's going on."

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Samuel S. Stratton said it "makes sense" for the CIA to finance international youth gatherings to combat communism. He added:

"Except for the purposes of headline publicity, American officeholders ought to know by now that we live in a very dangerous and difficult and even conspiratorial world."

Unfortunately, the Central Intelligence Agency is not in a position to describe the nature of its operations without

disclosing to the enemy facts which could frustrate the American effort altogether. The people of the United States have never been informed, on the other hand, as to what the Soviet government is really doing in the field of student and youth activities. There are two big organizations of the Communist party involved. One is called the World Federation of Democratic Youth, which was formed in 1945 and is located in Budapest. The other, known as the International Union of Students, is based in Prague, and was formed in 1946.

Both organizations have large professional staffs with estimated expenditures of over a million dollars a year apiece. They pass resolutions supporting Soviet policy and carry on extensive programs through field representatives. They conduct exchange programs for students, and this involves indoctrination in Marxism. These two student organizations cooperate in conducting the lavish "world youth festivals," one of which was held in Moscow in 1957 and another in Helsinki in 1962.

The festival is operated by the Communist parties of all the countries of Eastern Europe. While the two student and youth organizations claim to get their funds from membership dues and the sale of publications, they are actually heavily subsidized. It is estimated by American officials

that the youth festival in Moscow alone must have cost \$100 million. The festival held in Helsinki in 1962 is believed to have cost between \$20 million and \$25 million.

The purpose, of course, is to attract students from all over the world, get them in one place, and try to bring them around to the feeling that the "wave of the future" is represented by this kind of movement.

Over the last 14 years, the money furnished by the United States government to help the overseas activities of the National Student Association has averaged \$200,000 a year. All of these funds have been used solely to gather intelligence abroad and not in any way to engage in political activities in other countries.

The Soviet government, in contrast, uses many students, particularly in this country, to initiate demonstrations and participate in movements that seek to bring discredit on the United States government.

Actually, there is little difference between the work of the CIA in seeking information about Communist activities and that which is being done by the intelligence divisions of the United States armed services as they seek every day to gather information about enemy plans and operations.

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